DC

12

13+ TEEN

batgirl™

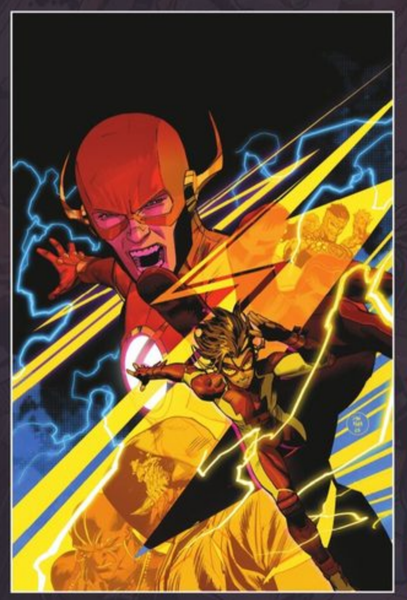
ALL IN

BROMBAL
MIYAZAWA
CASTRO
SPICER

DON'T MISS THE OPENING ROUNDS THIS OCTOBER

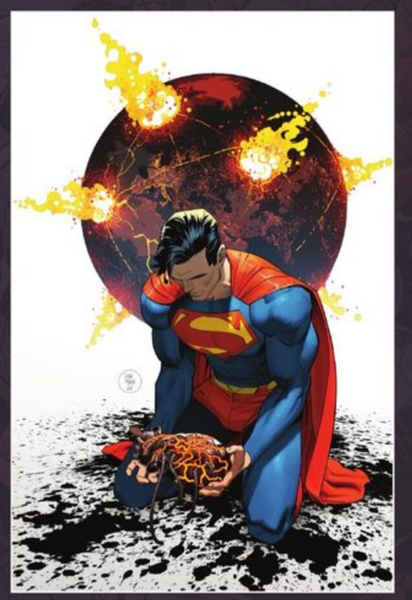
JUSTICE LEAGUE: THE OMEGA ACT SPECIAL

TITANS #28



THE FLASH #26

JUSTICE LEAGUE UNLIMITED #12



SUPERMAN #31

THE ACTION INTENSIFIES IN NOVEMBER AND BEYOND!

"GREAT LEADER...

"THE **LOSSES** WERE HEAVY, AND THEIR **FORCES** ADVANCE WITHOUT **END**...

...BUT I BRING YOU **GREAT NEWS.**

WE HAVE CAPTURED A **GRANDMASTER!**

WE HAVE CAPTURED **CHODAK THE UNBOWED!**

SHOW ME...

"...SHOW ME OUR **PRIZE.**"

RAAAAAHH!

BATGIRL REPORTING.

MY MISSION CONTINUES...

"...JUSTICE FOR MY MOTHER'S DEATH.

LADY SHIVA'S JOURNALS SENT ME WEST... ASSASSINS FOLLOWED.

THE UNBURIED AND THE BLOOD, SWORN RIVALS, BOTH WANT ME DEAD.

AT DRAGON RANCH I ALSO FOUND...

"...TENJI TURNER-- THE JADE TIGER.

"SON OF SHIVA AND BRONZE TIGER.

"MY MOTHER DIED AND LEFT ME A BROTHER.

NOW WE GO EAST TO THE LAND OF SHADOWS.

NYSSA AL GHUL, ENEMY OF MY ENEMIES, OFFERS ME JUSTICE.

I DO NOT TRUST HER. BUT I DO TRUST--

"--JAYA JAYESH.

"DAUGHTER OF MY FALLEN FRIEND JAYESH.

"RAISED BY THE ORDER OF SHIVA, NOW A MEMBER OF THE LEAGUE OF SHADOWS."

"THE PAST WILL NOT DIE.

"THE BLOOD WILL NOT STOP.

"MY ENEMIES WILL NOT RELENT.

"I MUST FINISH THIS...ONCE AND FOR ALL."

DC COMICS PROUDLY PRESENTS

BATGIRL

THE WAR OF SHADOWS PART 1

TATE BROMBAL WRITER TAKESHI MIYAZAWA ARTIST JUAN CASTRO INKS (P. 10-11, 14-20)
MIKE SPICER COLORS TOM NAPOLITANO LETTERS DAVID TALASKI COVER
RIAN GONZALES VARIANT COVER JESSICA BERBEY EDITOR ROB LEVIN GROUP EDITOR

"WE HAVE TRAVELED ACROSS THE **WORLD**. AMERICA TO EAST ASIA.

"TO THE **LAND** THAT WAS MY MOTHER'S.

"TO A HIDDEN REFUGE **IMPOSSIBLE** TO FIND... UNLESS THE **PATH** IS KNOWN, JAYA SAYS.

"BY MORNING, I TRAIN MY... BROTHER.

"HE IS STRONG BUT **NAIVE**. HIS FATHER RAISED HIM WITHOUT THE **SINS** OF HIS PARENTS..."

NOT GOOD ENOUGH.

YET!

"...TENJI BELIEVED LADY SHIVA AND BRONZE TIGER WERE THE WORLD'S **GREATEST HEROES**. HE DOES NOT KNOW THEIR **SHAME**.

"BY DAY, JAYA TEACHES ME THE **ART** MY FATHER NEVER TAUGHT.

"THE ART MY MOTHER **MASTERED**..."

HEALING IS MORE THAN FLESH AND BONE, BATGIRL, AND DOES NOT COME **EASILY** IF WE DO NOT FIRST FIND **BALANCE** WITHIN.

YES, ALL HEALING BEGINS WITH **CHI** AND **CHAKRA**.

WE MANIPULATE THE FLOW OF ENERGY AND LIFE FORCE ACROSS THE MANY **CHAKRA POINTS** TO RECONNECT OR DISRUPT THEIR BALANCE.

JUST AS THE **THIRD EYE** IMPACTS MEMORY, DREAMS, AND **INTUITION**... A BLOCKED **HEART CHAKRA** DISRUPTS OUR **EMOTIONS**.

"IT IS **HARDER** THAN IT LOOKS.

"BY NIGHT, THE OTHERS **LAUGH** AND **CHEER**.

"BY NIGHT, I COUNT MY **INJUSTICES**.

"BY NIGHT..."

"...OLD **NIGHTMARES** RETURN.

"OLD NIGHTMARES LONG **BURIED.**"

Why...

"OLD NIGHTMARES **REBORN.**"

Why...?

WHY DID YOU **KILL** ME, DAUGHTER?

MOTHER?

I-I DIDN'T! IT WAS **KALDEN THE UNSEEN.** IT WAS...**THE UNBURIED!**

TSK. ALWAYS AN **EXCUSE** WITH YOU.

THEN WHAT ARE YOU **WAITING** FOR, CASSANDRA CAIN...?

"...**PARENTS** ARE MEANT TO BE **AVENGED!**"

AAHH!

CASSIE--?!

WHAT'S **WRONG?** WHAT'S--

YOU **DON'T** KNOW!

YOU DON'T KNOW!

"CASS, ARE YOU OKAY...?"

...THIS IS THE **LONGEST** YOU'VE BEEN AWAY FROM US, FROM YOUR **FAMILY,** SINCE--

WELL, SINCE I **FOUND** YOU, CASS.

I KNOW THINGS ARE DIFFERENT IN **GOTHAM** RIGHT NOW, AFTER EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED, BUT I'M **WORRIED** ABOUT YOU.

COME **HOME,** CASSANDRA. YOU AREN'T SOUNDING LIKE **YOURSELF.**

I MUST **COMPLETE** MY MISSION, ORACLE.

I MUST GET **JUSTICE.** SO NIGHTMARES **END.**

JUSTICE? WITH THE **LEAGUE OF SHADOWS?**

AT WHAT POINT DOES JUSTICE BECOME **VENGEANCE,** *AND HOW WILL YOU KNOW THE* **DIFFERENCE?**

LOOK, **STEPHANIE** HAS BEEN TRYING TO REACH YOU, TOO. WHY WON'T YOU PICK UP?

THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU, CASS.

YOU'VE GONE **DARK** ON US, REPEATING **OLD PATTERNS...**

TALK TO STEPH.

I'M SURE IT'LL MAKE YOU **BOTH** FEEL--

BIP

THERE IT IS. UP AHEAD.

YOU SURE? I DON'T SEE ANYTHING!

EXACTLY.

IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND.

RMBBBBLLLE

WELCOME TO SAMSARA.

HOW DOES THIS... *EXIST?*

I'M GLAD YOU ASKED.

SAMSARA IS ONE OF MANY *BEYUL* ACROSS THE HIMALAYAS.

HIDDEN VALLEYS FORMED IN THE ***SHADOWS*** OF MOUNTAINS... BUT THIS *BEYUL* IS SPECIAL.

UNIQUE ***GEOTHERMAL*** POCKETS WARM THE LAND, GIVING SAMSARA ITS HEALING ***HOT SPRINGS*** AND CREATING THIS ***PARADISE.***

BEYUL HAVE GREAT ***SPIRITUAL*** SIGNIFICANCE TO THOSE WHO CALL THESE MOUNTAINS HOME.

IT'S SAID THE BARRIER BETWEEN THE ***SPIRIT WORLD*** AND OURS IS THINNER HERE.

THEIR LOCATIONS ARE KEPT ***HIDDEN*** FROM OUTSIDERS, BUT THIS ONE WAS LOST TO THE WORLD...

...UNTIL ***NYSSA*** FOUND IT IN ***RUINS.***

SHE REBUILT IT AS ***SAMSARA.***

A HAVEN FOR THE ***HOPELESS,*** THE LOST, AND THE NEEDY...

"...SAMSARA BECAME A ***REFUGE*** FOR ANYONE IN NEED OF ***HEALING.***

"A HOME WHERE ***EVERYONE*** WAS WELCOME WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO HEAL, TO RECOVER, TO ***DETOX*** FROM THE WORLD'S MANY POISONS AND ANXIETIES...

"...AND PEOPLE CAME.

"ALL OVER THE WORLD, THE ***PROMISES*** OF SAMSARA SPREAD ACROSS ***WHISPER*** NETWORKS LIKE WILDFIRE, AND NYSSA ACCEPTED THEM ALL INTO HER SAFE ***HARBOR.***

THIS IS NOT THE ***LEAGUE*** YOU ONCE KNEW, BATGIRL.

NYSSA HAS ***REMADE*** THEM, TOO.

THE WORLD'S MOST ELITE ***KILLERS*** HAVE TURNED OVER A NEW LEAF TO MAKE A ***BETTER WORLD.***

YOU, ABOVE ALL, MUST UNDERSTAND THIS, ***NO,*** DAUGHTER OF SHIVA?

...

ENOUGH.

TAKE ME TO HER...

"...TAKE ME TO *NYSSA AL GHUL.*"

HAH!

SHING

GIVE ME A CHALLENGE, *SHAPE-CHANGER!*

WE PREPARE FOR *WAR,* NOT FRIENDLY FIRE!

AS YOU WISH, ANGEL BREAKER.

PUUURRFECT!

SHING

NOW IT IS *MY* TURN!

WILL THE GIRL REVEAL HERSELF AT LAST?

ARUNA?

ARUNA SHENDE?

HELLO, BATGIRL.

YOU KNOW EACH OTHER?

FROM A FEW LIVES PAST, YES, AND QUITE A FEW ***DEATHS.*** HOW ARE YOU, DAUGHTER OF THE BAT?

GOOD.

WHY ARE YOU ***HERE,*** ARUNA?

WELL, BATGIRL, YOU SEE...

...AFTER THAT BRIEF BUT ***BRILLIANT*** TIME YOU AND YOUR FATHER ENTERED MY LIFE, THE WORLD ONLY KEPT TICKING ALONG AS IF ***NOTHING*** EVER HAPPENED.*

I WAS STILL ***ALONE,*** STILL WITHOUT THE ***ANSWERS*** OF MY ORIGINS.

I WAS STILL... ***INVISIBLE.***

*SEE BATGIRL ANNUAL #1 (2000) FOR ARUNA'S FIRST APPEARANCE/ENCOUNTER WITH THE BATS --JB

THEN ***NYSSA*** FOUND ME.

SHE BROUGHT ME HERE. SHE GAVE ME A HOME.

SHE HELPED ME FIND MY ***OWN*** ANSWERS WITH NO NEED OF A ***DETECTIVE*** OR HIS ***LIE DETECTOR...***

I ONLY NEEDED ***ME.***

YOU SEE, BATGIRL, ***THIS*** IS THE PROMISE OF SAMSARA.

WE'RE ALL ***OUTCASTS*** HERE. THE OTHERS EVERYONE ***OVERLOOKED*** OR TOOK FOR GRANTED.

NYSSA BUILT A HOME FOR ***ALL*** OF US.

AND WHAT ***RUNT*** IS THIS?

THE NAME'S JADE TIGER, LADY. ***WATCH IT!***

HOW CUTE. HE ***BARKS!***

I AM THE SON OF SHIVA!

AND SOMEDAY I'M GONNA BE THE WORLD'S GREATEST HERO, JUST LIKE MY SISTER!

SO YOU CHOOSE YOUR NEXT WORDS CAREFULLY, ALL RIGHT?!

OH NO. I AM SO AFRAID.

THE GREAT LADY SHIVA HAS... ANOTHER HEIR?

AND HE'S GREEN.

IF YOU KNEW ANYTHING-- AND YOU DON'T--YOU'D KNOW THAT MY MOTHER, FOR LIKE A DAY, WAS THE UNSTOPPABLE JADE CANA--

ENOUGH TALK.

WHERE IS NYSSA AL GHUL?

I'D SAY SPEAK OF THE DEVIL...

...BUT I'M IN MY *ANGELIC* EPOCH, DARLING.

HELLO, BATGIRL.

YOU ANSWERED MY CALL.

NYSSA.

SO THIS IS THE BIG, BAD *AL GHUL?*

NOT SO *SCARY* TO ME.

BIG? *BAD?* YOU MUST HAVE ME CONFUSED WITH MY *FATHER...*

...WHO, AGAINST ALL ODDS, FOUND A WAY TO DIE AND *NOT* COME BACK. JOY TO THE WORLD.

TALK.

YOUR *VERBOSITY* CONTINUES TO IMPRESS. I PRESUME YOU WISH TO KNOW *WHY* I INVITED YOU TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD?

YES. *TALK.*

IT'S QUITE SIMPLE, REALLY...

I WANT TO *HELP* YOU.

WHEN LAST WE MET, YOUR ***MOTHER*** WAS ATTEMPTING TO COBBLE TOGETHER SOME HAM-FISTED ***COALITION*** TO DEFEAT THE UNBURIED.

BUT THE BLOOD? THE ORDER OF SHIVA? MY LEAGUE OF SHADOWS?

ALL WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE ***GREATER GOOD?***

NO WONDER THAT PLAN ***BLEW UP*** BEFORE IT EVER LEFT THE GROUND. QUITE ***LITERALLY,*** ACTUALLY.

I DO NOT ***WANT*** WAR, BATGIRL.

I WANT ***THIS.***

I WANT WHAT I HAVE ALREADY ***ACHIEVED,*** THE VERY THING MY FATHER ***DREAMED*** OF BUT NEVER ATTAINED...

...THIS ***HEAVEN*** ON EARTH.

I WANT ***SAMSARA.***

BUT ***THE UNBURIED*** WILL NOT STOP UNTIL THEY ***DESTROY*** ME AND BURN MY ***WORKS*** TO THE GROUND.

FOR ***WHAT,*** YOU ASK? FOR THE SINS OF MY ***FATHER.***

HOW...DO YOU ***HELP*** ME?

WE HELP ***EACH OTHER.***

YOU WANT ***JUSTICE*** FOR YOUR MOTHER'S MURDER. AND WHEN THE ***STARS*** ALIGN...I DO NOT QUESTION THEM.

I DON'T LIKE HER, SIS.

HEROES DON'T WORK WITH ***VILLAINS.***

WHAT DO YOU ***WANT*** FROM ME?

WHAT ELSE COULD I WANT...?

THE BATGIRL IS THE WORLD'S ***GREATEST*** MARTIAL ARTIST, BORN OF ***LEGENDARY*** HERITAGE AND TRAINED BY THE ***BAT*** HIMSELF.

I ***NEED*** YOUR ***SKILLS.***

THE UNBURIED HAVE PROVEN TO BE A ***TENACIOUS*** BUNCH...BUT THEY ARE NOT ***INVINCIBLE.***

THEIR POWER LIES IN THEIR FABLED ***BLUE POPPIES.***

THEY ENDOW THEIR WARRIORS WITH INCREDIBLE STRENGTH AND ABILITIES.

THEY HEAL THEIR WOUNDED IN A MERE INSTANT TO REJOIN THE WAR.

SO I HAD A THOUGHT.

DESTROY THE ***POPPIES,*** DESTROY THE ***UNBURIED.***

MY MOTHER WANTED TO DO THE SAME BEFORE SHE DIED.

GREAT MINDS...

WHAT'S THE ***PLAN?***

A CLANDESTINE OPERATION BEHIND ENEMY LINES TO ***LOCATE*** THEIR POPPY SUPPLY, THEN ***ELIMINATE*** IT.

THOSE FLOWERS TAKE ***TIME*** TO CULTIVATE AND ARE ***IMPOSSIBLE*** TO GROW OUTSIDE SAMSARA IN THOSE SNOWY MOUNTAINS.

TIME AND CONDITIONS THEY DO NOT HAVE.

IF ALL GOES TO PLAN, THERE WILL BE NO ***BLOODSHED,*** BATGIRL.

BUT I CANNOT FAIL OR IT'LL BE THE ***END*** OF SAMSARA... AND THAT IS WHY I ***NEED*** THE BEST.

THAT IS WHY I NEED ***YOU.***

THANKS, BUT **NAH.**

WHAT?

I SAID IT ALREADY. **WE** DO NOT WORK WITH **VILLAINS.** FULL STOP.

I DIDN'T REALIZE THE DOLLAR-STORE **BRONZE TIGER** MADE DECISIONS FOR THE **ONE** WHO IS **ALL.**

PAINT ME A **VILLAIN** ALL YOU LIKE. I HAVE ONLY EVER DONE WHAT WAS NECESSARY TO **SURVIVE.**

DO YOU WANT TO **KNOW** WHAT THEY DID TO ME AT **DACHAU?**

THEY CUT ME OPEN, BOY, PLAYED **GOD** WITH MY INNARDS, THEN STOLE **PIECES** OF ME I'LL NEVER HAVE BACK...

NYSSA--

I NO LONGER **FEEL.** NEITHER PAIN NOR **EMOTION.**

EVEN NOW I **PERFORM** THIS ANGER TO BE UNDERSTOOD BECAUSE I **SURVIVED.**

YOU WANT TO **JUDGE?** WHAT OF YOU, BATGIRL, WHO BLEW ME TO **SMITHEREENS,** THEN BLAMED IT ON **BRAINWASHING...*** BUT I SURVIVED.

I FLED INTO THE **BLIZZARDS** OF THESE MOUNTAINS WITH THE WORLD THINKING ME **DEAD,** YET I SURVIVED.

I FOUNDED **HEAVEN** ON EARTH, REBUILT MY FATHER'S **EMPIRE,** AND, YES, WITH THE HORRORS OF **HELL** AT MY GATES TO THIS DAY--

--NYSSA AL GHUL **SURVIVES.**

*SEE ROBIN #148 (2006) FOR WHEN CASS **ATTEMPTED** TO ASSASSINATE NYSSA WITH A CAR BOMB UNDER DEATHSTROKE'S CONTROL. OOPSIES! --JB

BOOM

CHODAK THE UNBOWED HAS ESCAPED!

DEATH TO SAMSARA!

DEATH TO THE AL GHULS!

WHAT IS BURIED WILL ALWAYS COME--

--TO LIGHT!

SMASH

NYSSA--!

NO.

HE'S MINE.

SHING
SHING
SLK
SLK
SLK
SLK

CASSIE...

THE *ONE*... WHO IS *ALL*...

I WILL *JOIN* YOUR MISSION.

I WILL HAVE MY *JUSTICE*.

THE *UNBURIED* MUST BE *STOPPED*.

ONCE AND FOR *ALL*.

NEXT:
DEATH TO THE UNBURIED?!

DC K0

#1 PREVIEW

WRITER
SCOTT SNYDER

ARTIST
JAVI FERNÁNDEZ

COLORIST
ALEJANDRO SÁNCHEZ

LETTERER
HASSAN OTSMANE-ELHAOU

HERE IN THE DARK, IN THE MOMENTS BEFORE IT BEGINS.

HE TELLS HIMSELF IT'S JUST ANOTHER FIGHT--

KRAK

--A BRAWL LIKE COUNTLESS ONES BEFORE.

HELL, FOR THIS ONE EVERYONE EVEN GOT TO BRING GEAR. KAL-EL BROUGHT THE KNUCKLES.

KLANG

HE FORGED THEM IN THE FORTRESS YEARS AGO, AFTER RETURNING FROM THE DEAD.

KNUCKLES WITH MINIATURE SUNS RAGING INSIDE, ANGRY SUNS TAKEN FROM EMPTY UNIVERSES...

HE THOUGHT ABOUT CALLING THEM "DAWNSDAY" KNUCKLES, BUT LOIS SHUT THAT DOWN FAST.

EVEN SO... WITH THEM HE'S STRONGER, FASTER, READY TO THROW DOWN.

HE'S FOUGHT TOUGHER FIGHTS THAN THIS. FOUGHT IN OTHER DIMENSIONS, OTHER UNIVERSES, FOUGHT GODS, TITANS...

...WHAT'S ONE MORE FIGHT?

AND THEN THE DOORS OPEN--

WHAT THE--

TWO SPACES. ONE, TWO.

Whomp, whomp. GO BACK A ROW, CLARK. GREEN IS **KRYPTONITE.**

KRYPTONITE, DIANA?

Seriously?

I DIDN'T MAKE THE RULES!

Oh, look, **"BATMOBILE BOOST."** GO AHEAD THREE SPACES. **NICE!**

WHO MADE THIS THING? GIVE ME THE BOX.

"Malone Entert--" ***BRUCE...***

Never heard of it. Just play the game.

I WARNED YOU... CLARK DOESN'T LIKE A GAME UNLESS NO ONE HAS TO LOSE.

Aw, LOSING **BUILDS CHARACTER.**

SO DOES ***WINNING.***

Well, I FOR ONE AM GLAD YOU INVITED US. THANKS, LOIS.

OF COURSE. I JUST THOUGHT, YOU NEVER GET TO SPEND TIME TOGETHER. I MEAN, WHEN YOU'RE NOT SAVING THE WORLD.

THANKS, LO. *I'M* GLAD, TOO.

ME TOO.

NICE, **BATPLANE** POWER CARD. MOVE UP... ***NINE*** SPACES. YOUR ROLL, CLARK.

IT'S ALL RIGHT. WHY DON'T WE EAT?

FOOD'S STILL COOKING. NICE TRY, THOUGH.

YOU JUST NEED A STRATEGY, CLARK. THE WHOLE GAME IS STRATEGY.

OR YOU COULD STOP ARGUING AND PLAY HARD. WATCH AND LEARN...

TWELVE!

MOVE UP ONE ROW.

THEY PLAY ON. AND AS THEY DO, THEY TALK AS FRIENDS... FAMILY. NOT COLLEAGUES OR HEROES.

THEY TALK ABOUT THEIR CHILDREN, JONATHAN, DAMIAN, ELIZABETH...

AN HOUR LATER, THE GAME IS STILL NOT OVER, THOUGH THEY'RE ALL WITHIN A FEW SPACES OF THE WATCHTOWER-- THE FINISH LINE.

DIANA IS ABOUT TO ROLL THE WINNING ROLL WHEN LOIS SAYS IT...

GUYS, WHY IS IT SO BRIGHT OUT?

Dear god...

WHAT CLARK SEES OUT THE WINDOW MAKES HIS BLOOD RUN COLD.

DARKSEID.

THE HEROES' *OLDEST* AND *GREATEST* FOE. MAYBE THE MOST FAMILIAR ENEMY THEY HAVE.

BUT *THIS* DARKSEID HAS BECOME SOMETHING *ELSE*. SOMETHING *MORE*.

HE ISN'T JUST BIGGER, *STRONGER*... HE'S *EVERYTHING*. A UNIVERSE OF POWER GIVEN FORM.

KRAK

EVERYWHERE HE LOOKS, THE CITY BECOMES HIS. NO, CLARK THINKS, NOT *HIS*... IT BECOMES *HIM*. CLARK CAN *SEE* IT HAPPENING.

EVERY PARTICLE, EVERY MOLECULE, EVERY *ATOM* IS OF *DARKSEID*.

KRAK

AS THEY CHARGE HIM, CLARK TELLS HIMSELF THEY'VE DONE THIS BEFORE. THEY'VE FOUGHT UXAS DOZENS OF TIMES AND *WON*...

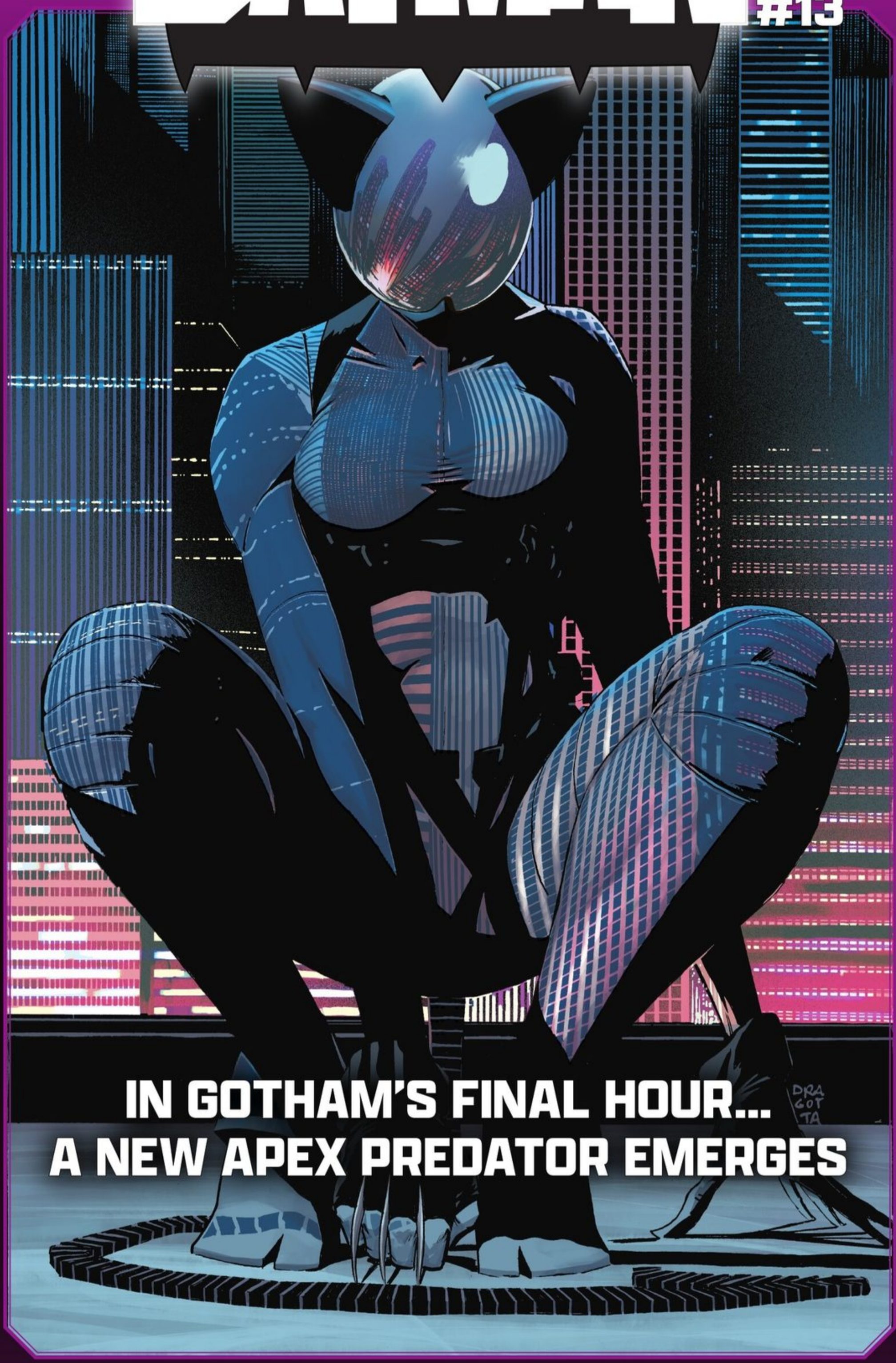
...THIS FIGHT IS LIKE *NOTHING* THEY'VE FACED. *EVER*...

TO BE CONTINUED IN DC K0 #1 ON SALE IN OCTOBER!

ALL IN

ABSOLUTE BATMAN #13

THE ERA OF **ABSOLUTE CATWOMAN** BEGINS **OCTOBER**



IN GOTHAM'S FINAL HOUR...
A NEW APEX PREDATOR EMERGES

Written by **SCOTT SNYDER** • Art by **NICK DRAGOTTA**

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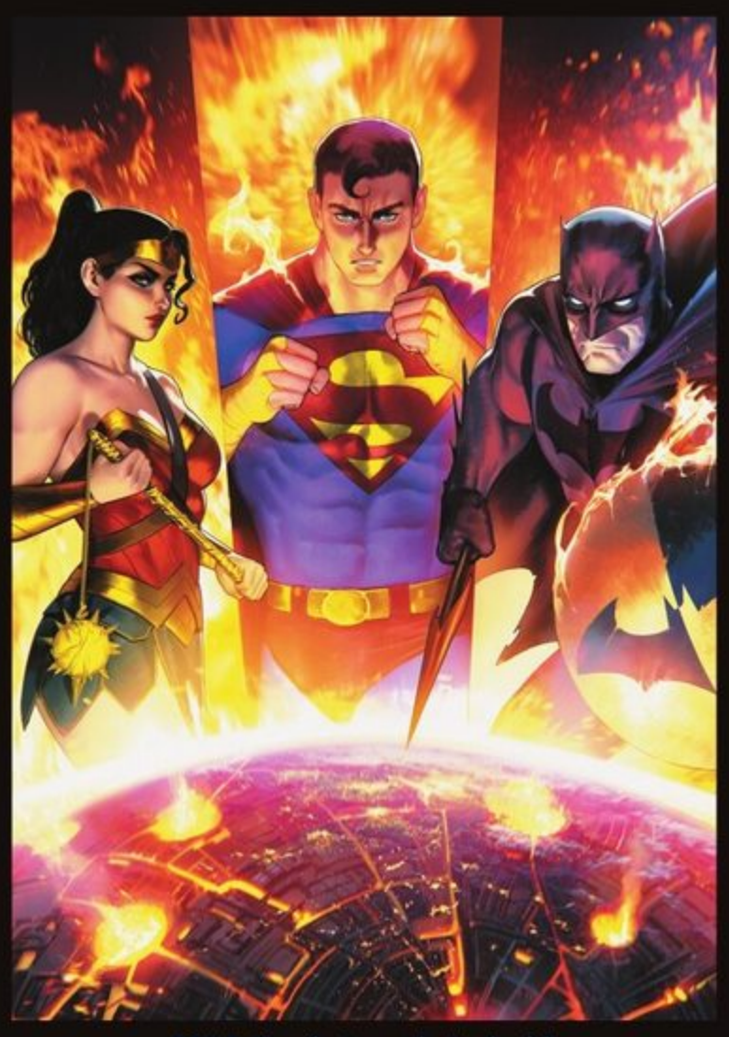
DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

A CONVERSATION WITH SCOTT SNYDER AND JOSHUA WILLIAMSON

In 2024, *Absolute Batman* writer Scott Snyder and Superman writer Joshua Williamson gave shape to DC's future in the fateful *DC All In Special* one-shot—the start of the All In era and the birth of the Absolute Universe. One year later, Snyder teams with artist Javi Fernández for *DC K.O.*, a massive, fight-filled, five-issue DC Universe event starting in October and running through March; with Williamson presiding over the tie-in series. In the second half of a conversation between Snyder and Williamson, the friends and frequent collaborators discuss what's at stake in the event and the *who would win?* fun of the story.

Scott Snyder: The whole event at its core is giant fights between your favorite heroes—but not grim-dark. It's really fun! The whole goal of it is to bring you back to that kid joy of who would win in a fight.

Joshua Williamson: We all have these conversations—we go to the comic book store and talk about who would win, and that's what we want to do a story about. We have some surprises; it's not only going to be the characters you're expecting. We're definitely going to have characters that you're not expecting to get into this competition.



DC K.O. #1 variant cover by Noobovich

Snyder: When you die in the tournament, you're out. You turn into a statue, you're put on a shelf, and you lose. You can't become the King Omega. Whoever is the champion, the whole universe bends towards them so they become this giant celestial being.

If you show mercy, if you act in a way that is compassionate, then the Omega energy goes down. The only way is to be merciless. To go all the way.

Williamson: The heroes have to really fight and really push themselves in ways they never have.

DC K.O. #1 variant cover by Jim Lee and Alex Sinclair

Snyder: Some characters won't know if they can do it, whereas other characters have been waiting for it.

Williamson: Some characters already have plans on how to take out other characters.

There's an emotional core. When we did *Dark Nights: Metal*, it was very much about a Batman story, when we did *Dark Nights: Death Metal* it was a Wonder Woman story, and now we're doing *DC K.O.* and we knew this was going to be a Superman story.

DC K.O. #1 variant cover by Frank Cho and Sabine Rich

Snyder: I haven't gotten to write Clark in quite a few years. At first, I was pretty reluctant, because there are so many great Superman stories happening right now. The truth is, he was the only character who could really be the hero of this story. The only way to win is to become the thing you hate.

Whoever wins, whoever becomes the King Omega, gets to restore everything on the other side. If they can beat him, they can put everything back the way it was. The question of the event is, is it worth it? Is it worth becoming the thing you hate?

DC K.O. #1 main cover
by Javi Fernández and Alejandro Sánchez

DON'T MISS *DC K.O.* #1, ON SALE OCTOBER!

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